

THE AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 31, 1857.

AGENTS FOR THE AMERICAN.

For First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards, Henry Johnson, residence 409 K street.
For Georgetown, (The Embodiment.)
For Sixth Ward, George T. Dykes.
For Fifth and Seventh Wards, MONTGOMERY SMALLWOOD.
HENRY BOYER, Agent for Alexandria.

"THE UNION OF THE UNIONISTS, FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION!"

Communications, advertisements, &c. &c., for the "American," may be left at No. 321 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tucker's Sportsman's Warehouse. This place is central and convenient, and we trust our friends will remember that we are ready and willing to do them good, at all times, by advertising the public thereto by articles, under the local head. We are disposed to put them in good humor with themselves and with us, and to keep them so. If there are any that don't believe us, let them try it on and see what they'll get.

A CHANGE.

The American will hereafter be issued as a weekly, instead of a semi-weekly paper. In announcing this change to our friends—many of whom have laid us under lasting obligations of gratitude for their active exertions in our behalf—we feel it necessary to state the reason which has moved us. It is simply the want of sufficient support to enable us to go on smoothly, and do justice to our readers and ourselves, with two issues a week.

The American party in this city has gone through a fiery ordeal for the last three or four years. Americans have been the objects of unceasing slander and persecution as well as of military and brutal assault. Every kind of misrepresentation has been resorted to, and every possible odium heaped upon them. All this they have borne and could bear, if it were ended here; but the war upon them has been carried home to "their business and bosoms." Every one holding a position under the government has felt it to be his duty, acting in the spirit, and undoubtedly in accordance with the wishes of his superiors, to refuse employment to every individual known or suspected to prefer his own countrymen to foreigners, and to discharge from employment all such as may have accidentally been employed. And as government is the great employer here, and its influence ramifies throughout all branches of business, even that of merchandize, it is easy to be seen how seriously this baneful and hostile influence operates against those who dare to differ from the powers that be.

Many have been driven out of employment altogether, and left dependent upon chance for the support of their families; many have been compelled to seek employment elsewhere, and others to give up their friends and associations for a time, in order to prevent their families from suffering. We have reason to believe there are scores in the metropolis who would take and sustain the American, but dare not. The cause has their best wishes, but they live under a tyrannical despotism which prates of liberty, but allows none.

Thus circumstanced, it is not to be wondered at that the Americans here are too few and too straightened in their pecuniary means, especially at this time of general financial distress, to support a semi-weekly paper in such a manner as to make it remunerative.

For these reasons we have determined to make the change, and shall present our readers, no one of whom we trust will desert us, with a handsome and well-filled weekly sheet—one that will be found interesting and valuable as a FAMILY PAPER. Our female readers, we are sure, will approve the change, for we shall take especial pains to win their favor, by a goodly supply of well selected tales and literary reading, which will, we hope, make them always look anxiously for, and welcome the appearance of the WEEKLY AMERICAN.

As our hands were deprived of their Christmas holiday, and some of them are suffering with severe colds, we shall issue no paper on Saturday—nor until our regular day of issuing the weekly, the Saturday following. The paper will be enlarged and much improved in appearance, as well as in fact.

"The election of two Senators by the Legislature and of three Representatives by the people, all Democratic, completes the claim of Minnesota to the position of a thoroughly Democratic State. It will shortly be admitted into the Union as such, and we predict for her a steady adherence to the political principles she has thus early adopted.—Union.

But every one knows who knows anything about the Minnesota election, that the Democratic majority was obtained by the most palpable, gross, and shameless fraud ever practiced by a party with whom fraud is as common, as deceit, dissimulation, falsehood and cruelty were with Philip II, of Spain, and the Italian nobles and princes of the middle ages.

The Pembina returns were false, fraudulent and forged, like those that Gov. Walker and Mr. Stanton rejected as such in Kansas.

Judge Douglas' first and great speech on Kansas affairs, in reply to the President's message, is most extensively published. It has probably been read by more than five millions of people.

We think it highly probable that before the close of the present fiscal year, another government loan of twenty or twenty-five millions will be called for.

Prosperity is a blessing to the good, but a curse to the evil.

ILLNESS OF FORESTER, THE TRAGEDIAN.—Forester, the tragedian, is dangerously ill at Cleveland, O., at the American Hotel.

Gov. Wess has been "in the straw" again, and delivered of another message. The three thousand muskets trouble his brain, and he has told all about them.

Judge Douglas' course has been endorsed and approved by a Democratic meeting at Chicago.

Is Mr. McKim removed or not? If yes—for what? If no—why not?

It may appear somewhat strange to the uninitiated that Judge Douglas, from Illinois, should so strenuously oppose the action of the Kansas Convention in leaving only the question of slavery to be decided by the people, and even that in such a manner that they cannot exclude slavery from the State, and that the two Senators from Indiana, an adjoining State, should so strenuously sustain that action and stand by Mr. Buchanan and the administration.

In looking for the motives which actuate ambitious politicians, he who should take it for granted that they are governed solely by the reasons which they avow for their action, in their public speeches, would greatly deceive himself. Public men, and especially those who have ulterior objects to accomplish, and are looking to the attainment of higher stations, have private as well as public reasons for what they do. We do not pretend to a sagacity sufficiently keen to detect the secret causes moving these Senators; but let us suppose that Judge Douglas should have perceived that the people of Illinois had imbibed some free-soil notions—that the public mind of that State had become impressed with the idea that strenuous efforts had been made to establish slavery in Kansas—that the Constitutional Convention had been a willing instrument in the hands of those who were thus endeavoring to make slavery one of the domestic institutions of that State, against the known wishes of a large majority of "the actual inhabitants thereof;" and suppose also, that the people of Illinois looked upon the action of the late Convention as fraudulent and violative of the organic law of Kansas; and suppose further, that Mr. Douglas' term in the Senate was drawing to a close, and he was desirous of being re-elected to that distinguished station, would he not very naturally be anxious to pursue a course in accordance with the public sentiment of the people of his State, if he could do so consistently with his own views of public duty? We should conclude that he would; and we see nothing very strange therefore, in his taking the attitude he has assumed; any other, under the circumstances, would undoubtedly have made shipwreck of his political prospects, and thrown him up, high and dry, upon the sands of Cape Disappointment.

So much for Judge Douglas' course. Now let us suppose that a certain prominent member of the Cabinet, from the South, should be an aspirant for the Presidential nomination in 1860; of course the Vice President would be taken from one of the free States, in case the said aspirant from the South should obtain the nomination; and if that aspirant were from a Southern State, it would be quite proper to select the individual to run on the ticket with him from the Northwest; and who more likely to be selected than the senior Senator from Indiana, especially as he is a friend, personal and political, of the member of the Cabinet referred to?

If then, the possibility or probability of the happening of such an event as the nomination of the two gentlemen named, should have entered the mind of either or both of them, it would be quite natural that they should desire now to harmonize with each other in their political views and action; and it would not excite very great astonishment that looking at the Kansas embroglio through the same spectacles of expectation, they should both see the action of the late Convention in the same light.

That the people both of Indiana and Illinois take the same view of the Kansas fraud, we cannot for a moment doubt. The election of the two Senators from the former State took place but lately, and is contested—if their seats were now within the gift or refusal of the people, we cannot but think they would find that the line of their duty led them in a very different direction from that which they are now travelling. But we are to remember that it is the Senate that has to decide upon the legality of that election, and that a majority of that body adhere to the administration instead of coinciding with Judge Douglas. Thus we perceive that there are surface-currents and deep sea currents in politics; and we know that ambitious men are often more influenced by currents and reasons unseen, than by those that are upon the surface and apparent to all.

In plain English—it is whispered that Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, is a candidate for the Presidential chair, and that the friends of Senator Bright favor his aspirations with the understanding that the latter is to be placed on the ticket with him for the Vice Presidency. This is said to be one of the causes why Mr. Bright and his colleagues, Mr. Fitch, sustain the administration in its course upon the Kansas question. Another reason given is, that it is in the power of the administration Senators to declare their election illegal and void, and their seats vacant; in which event it is not now probable they could be re-elected. Their only chance, therefore, of remaining in the Senate is, to sustain the administration.

DEATH OF "MISS COTTRELL."—The English lady whose persecutions of Mario attracted so much attention in Paris last year—whose box at the Italiens was made with a sliding panel to draw before her whenever Mario left the stage, and who followed that blessed traitor from city to city, from climate to climate—has just died from the effects of burns incurred some time since by her dress catching fire, just as she was on the point of starting for the opera to hear Mario once more in the "Barbieri."

We have respectable and respected citizens in every State in the Union, qualified for the discharge of the highest duties which are required at our public offices abroad, and we trust in the integrity of Mr. Buchanan that they will not be overlooked to make room for persons who are Americans in little else than a mere name; persons who make a convenience of our country to secure a passport to official distinction abroad. The further employment of such will not be tacitly acquiesced in.

A FAILURE.—The Springfield Republican states that Mr. Eli Thayer's colony at Ceredo, in Northwestern Virginia, exhibits symptoms of decay and hastening dissolution. A number of the colonists have returned to Massachusetts in disgust and dejection. This result is attributed to the cupidity of the managers of the colony.

Some of the papers at the North calling themselves Republican, together with the National Era of this city, assume the right to lecture certain members of the House of Representatives, to wit: Messrs. Morris of Pa., Clark of Conn., Campbell of Ohio, and Clawson and Robbins of N. J., because they did not think proper to vote for Mr. Grow for Speaker.

These papers put on a very arrogant tone, and attempt to exercise a usurped authority. Whoever may have voted for these gentlemen, they were elected as Americans, and not as Republicans. It is true that, as a choice of evils, perhaps, some of them two years ago acted with the Republicans in the organization of the House, and on many important questions relating to Kansas; but that gave the Republicans no right to demand party fealty from them, and no such right is admitted; least of all has the Era anything to do with them—as they never recognized its authority or belonged to its distinctive party.

Mr. Grow refused, two years ago, to vote for a person as one of the officers of the House, we are assured, simply because he was an American. What claim, then, has he to American support, and what right have Republican papers to lecture Americans for their votes? Let them use the lash upon those who train under them, Americans will not submit to it. The Era says:

"Let Messrs. Campbell, Ezra Clark, and the New Jersey members, have the whole honor of representing the American party in the House, and Republicanism will not suffer in the least from the fact."

The editor is probably not aware that there are many members in the House whom he ranks, we presume, as Republicans, who are really Americans, and who believe the time not distant when the Republican organization will dissolve into thin air, and the American sentiment become the predominant principle of the opponents of the administration. But such we know to be the fact.

Buchanan vs. Douglas.

The administration is busily at work rallying its adherents in the different States, and getting up popular meetings to sustain its course on Kansas affairs. While it uses cautious and temperate language towards Judge Douglas here it can easily be perceived that his political downfall has been determined on if the President and his Cabinet have power to accomplish it.

But in the meantime those who stand by the Senator and think him right and honest, are not idle; and we accordingly see Democratic meetings held in various parts of the North and West, at which resolutions approving his course are adopted.

Judge D. is not a man to back out through fear, from any position he may have taken; nor will his opponents find it an easy matter to drive him from it. As for reading him out of the party, he is as much the Democratic party himself, as Mr. Buchanan and his Cabinet together. It will be but a small affair when he and his followers leave it.

A close attention to the language of the Union, the Richmond Enquirer and other leading administration papers, will show that there is more feeling unexpressed than is allowed to find vent in words, towards the recalcitrant Senator. There is a *quasi* war between him and the administration, but it has not yet reached the point of open and avowed hostility.

AN OLD DOCUMENT.

On the 4th of August 1849, the following interrogatories were propounded to Mr. Senator Fitch, by Grove Pomeroy:

1. Will you, if elected, vote for the unconditional repeal of Slavery in the District of Columbia?
2. Will you vote for the abolition of the interstate slave trade?
3. Will you vote for the Wilmot proviso being extended over the Territories of California and New Mexico, and against any law authorizing slaves to be taken there as property?

Please answer the above questions, yes or no, without comment.

GROVE POMEROY.

ANSWER.
With pleasure I answer "yes" to the above questions.

Entertaining the views indicated in my answer above, I shall not only vote "yes" on those measures, but if no older or able member, whose influence would be greater than mine, introduce them into Congress, I shall do it myself if I have the honor of holding a seat there.

G. M. FRENCH.
Mr. John Martin, of London, is being put in possession of the "Jennens' property" which for so long a period has been without a recognized heir. The sum in cash he inherits amounts to the inconvenient sum of \$80,000,000, while his income will be \$4,000,000 per annum. The inheritor has been wretchedly poor all his preceding life.

INDIAN VICTIMS.—There are now thirty-five "sons of the forest" in this city, representing several tribes. They come from the junction of the Running Water and Missouri rivers. The chiefs now here are tall, stalwart men, each one standing over six feet in his moccasins.

THE FILLIBUSTER.—The Galveston News of the 26th ultimo says there are now about seven hundred men enlisted in Texas as emigrants to Nicaragua. It further says:

"Most of them will soon leave for Nicaragua, and the rest will follow with little delay. Of course nothing has yet been heard from General Walker since he left, but news will be received from him by the 1st of December, and no doubt accounts will show him to be in possession of all the ports on the San Juan River, as there were no forces there to oppose him. General Hemming is now in New York, doing all he can to aid the cause. Col. Waters is in Houston, and will leave with the first emigrants that start to join Walker. It is well known that Walker is now receiving the active co-operation of many of the most influential men in the South, and though the movement has been delayed by the recent financial embarrassments of the country, yet everything is now progressing most favorably. Col. Rogers is in New Orleans, acting as Gen. Walker's principal agent there."

The New York Herald of Wednesday, contains an article characteristically abusive of every member of the 36th Congress. It is surcharged with arrogance, impertinence, ignorance, slippancy and self-conceit. The writer characterizes the debates in the Senate upon the Treasury note bill, as of "the most wily-washy and trashy description," and says that the measure had been "discussed with the shallowness and flippancy of a bar-room conversation."

There were speeches made in the Senate on that occasion that would do honor to any statesman, considering the little time for preparation.

We have received the *Selma Daily Reporter* of the 18th inst., and to the inquiry of the editor we respond, that if he will examine the records of the State Department of Alabama, he will find that a certain person was on the 18th day of January, 1857, appointed by Governor Pickens Junior of the Court of Common Pleas of Dallas county, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Aylett. The name of the person thus commissioned, will clear up the mystery, and satisfy his curiosity.

FIRING CRACKERS ON CHRISTMAS.

The practice of celebrating the birth of our Saviour by firing crackers and pistols—a practice we never witnessed anywhere but here—we look upon as improper, senseless and profane. This is a proper mode of celebrating the anniversary of our National Independence, but wholly inconsistent with that devotional sentiment which the birth of Christ is calculated to inspire, and of course with the religious ceremonies of the day.

If the firing of guns, pistols and crackers be proper, then it would seem to be right also that there should be military parades; and instead of going to church and listening to the pealing organ and the swelling chime, the "Gloria in Excelsis," the service and the sermon, we should listen to the music of "the ear-piercing file" and the rub-a-dub of the martial drum.

We should think parents would be in the line of their duty by inspiring their children with different sentiments on this occasion than those associated with more noise and gunpowder. Let them rejoice and be merry; let their hearts be joyful and glad; but let them understand why the day is observed as a holy day, and why it should be celebrated with harp and timbrel, and with songs and anthems of praise.

We give our full consent to the boys to fire crackers on New Year's day.

"Should Douglas and those who think with him desert us, we may be assured that there is a political earthquake coming, which in 1860 may have a fissure of fire as the dividing line between the North and South."

We think it well to record the above hypothetical threat for the benefit of future reference. It is the closing paragraph of the leading editorial article in the *Richmond Enquirer* of the 21st inst. The sum and substance of this fulmination is this—no more and no less—"If the Democratic party is to be disesteemed so shall the Union—for what is the use of preserving the Union if we, Democrats, can no longer divide the spoils of office among ourselves?" Mr. Calhoun never uttered a truer sentence in his life than when he said that "the Democratic party was kept together by the cohesive power of public pander."

The distribution of the loaves and fishes of the government among themselves, has been the one all-absorbing object, motive and principle of the leaders of that party. Hence, though they quarrel as fierce as hungry wolves over "the spoils" when won, yet the moment that these spoils are devoured and more are to be run down, like the same ravenous wolves, they unite in one pack, and think of nothing but the game they are in pursuit of till it is in their possession.

"Democracy," "Democracy," is their cuckoo cry, but "plunder," "plunder," their object.

A LONG TIME TO WAIT.—In the middle of the fifteenth century the Count of Logrono was made prisoner by the Duke of Burgundy. He ransomed his life by the surrender of immense estates, conditioned, however, that they should not be sold, and that after four hundred years they should revert to the heirs of the Count. For this long time the estates have been enjoyed by the heirs of the Duke, and the ultimate rights of the heirs of the Count have been kept in view and recognized. The four hundred years have expired, and the arrangements have been made for the transfer of the property. The heirs of the Duke have offered to pay 20,000,000 francs for a clear title to the property.

ST. LOUIS, DEC. 28.—Kansas advices of the 22d instant have been received. The constitution with slavery was carried by a large majority, but the returns are meagre. It is stated in Lawrence letters received by the St. Louis Republican that a body of men had gone to Leavenworth to seize the territorial armory. Lane had also gone to Fort Scott with the avowed intention to destroy the place—to exterminate the pro-slavery settlers on the Shawnee reservation, and carry the war into Missouri.

WALKER IN CUSTODY.—NEW YORK DEC. 28.—Gen. Walker delivered himself to Marshal Rynders, who has made arrangements to accompany the prisoner to Washington to-morrow, to ascertain the intentions of the President.

RECEPTION OF THE NICARAGUAN NEWS IN THE SOUTH.—MOBILE, DEC. 28.—There is great excitement here to-day in regard to the government intervention, and the arrest of Gen. Walker. It is believed that a public meeting will shortly be held on the subject.

WHAT THE MORNING PAPERS SAY.—The *Leader* is not prepared to give up Douglas yet, and advises Democrats not to be too busy in denouncing him. "We regard as an important counsel, since nearly all the Democrats in this city actually sustain Douglas against the Administration.—St. Louis Evening News.

MINNESOTA ELECTION.—U. S. SENATORS ELECTION.—CHICAGO, DEC. 28.—The official canvass of Minnesota is completed. The entire Democratic ticket is elected.

Messrs. Rice and Shields were elected U. S. Senators on the 19th.

"Long John" in his paper, the *Chicago Democrat*, says:

"Judge Douglas knows that he was 'knifed' by the South at the Cincinnati Convention, and of course he cordially hates the instrument that was used to do the deed. That instrument is James Buchanan."

"The present quarrel in the party, then, we consider not so much a quarrel for principles, as it is a quarrel for spoils. It is a quarrel of personal hatred on one hand, and personal revenge on the other. Mr. Buchanan hates Judge Douglas and Judge Douglas seeks to have his revenge upon Mr. Buchanan."

If the above be true, then fix up the Kansas imbroglio as they may, the breach in the party will not be healed.

Mr. Van Buren thought he was "knifed by the South," and by Gen. Cass, at the Baltimore Convention in 1844, and in consequence of that, made the movement he did in 1848, to defeat Gen. Cass, and in defeating him "knifed" the South.

The conquest of Fillibuster Walker and his men, and the bringing them back to the United States, is likely to be the throwing of pitch under the already boiling political cauldron. Mr. Buchanan has his hands full of Walkers.

We call the attention of our readers to an article in another part of this paper, entitled "PAPISTRY EXPOSED." There are but comparatively few presses in the United States now, which will publish anything that militates against Romanism, however extraordinary may be its character, or however glaringly it may expose the dark deeds practised in the name of religion. Read the article.

"When the slavery question is submitted to the people of Kansas as has been provided, so far as that Territory is concerned, the object of the Nebraska bill will have been fully and fairly attained."—*Richmond Enquirer*.

Then the Democrats of the North were most egregiously humbugged when they were induced to vote for that bill. They did not so understand it; the Southern Democrats did not so understand it; and nobody so understood it when the bill was under discussion and passed.

"Intentionally or not, it cannot be denied that by opposing the admission of Kansas under the action of the Leavenworth Convention, they are giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Senator Douglas is in this category. It is not at all unnatural that he should be deeply interested in the operation of the Nebraska bill. And considering his former fidelity, his previous bold defence of Southern rights, we are willing to bear with him to a certain point.—He has reached that point. If he takes a single step beyond it, the Southern Democracy will forsake him in sorrow. As he now stands before the country, a simple question of expediency alone places him in opposition to the Administration.—But upon that question, the fate of the Union may be turning."—*Richmond Enquirer*.

Here is a very significant hint or caution to Judge Douglas. "Guardes vous." "You have reached a certain point; if you take a single step beyond it, the Southern Democracy will forsake you."

Such is the threat sounded in his ear from the South; but at the same time he hears the voice of the North, saying "he who shall countenance the monstrous fraud attempted to be played off upon the people of Kansas by the Leavenworth Convention, need never ask or hope for favors from me. He shall 'never more be officer of mine.'"

In Rome milk was used as a cosmetic, and for baths as well as a beverage. Five hundred asses supplied the bath and toilet vases of the Empress, Poppaea. Some dozen or two of the same animals were kept to maintain the decaying strength of Francis II. of France. Appropos of milk. Butter was not known either in Greece or Rome until comparatively late periods. The Greeks received it from Asia, and the Romans were taught the use of it by the German matrons.

REVOLUTION IN MEXICO.—Later advices have been received from the city of Mexico. Comonfort had become dictator, and dissolved the Congress. The city was in arms. Comonfort's proclamation annuls the present constitution, and evokes a special Congress. The army in several of the States had pronounced in his favor. No open opposition to his measures had taken place.

JOURNAL OF INDUSTRY.—This the title of a weekly periodical published at Philadelphia by Samuel Lloyd, and edited by J. P. Sanderson.

The character of the work is indicated by its motto, "All other countries but our own exclude by high duties, or absolute prohibition, whatever they can respectively produce within themselves. The truth is, and it is in vain to disguise it, that we are a sort of independent colonies of England—politically free, commercially slaves."—HENRY CLAY.

THE GREAT FILLIBUSTER AGAIN LET LOOSE.

Walker, the great filibuster, after having been arrested and sent home by Commodore Paulding, and brought on here by the Marshal of New York, has been turned loose by the Government, with a hint, we suppose, that he had better hasten to raise more men, and return to the scene of his late adventures.

And now we call attention to the letter of Commodore Paulding to the Secretary of the Navy below, with the simple remark that we do not believe it was the wish of the Administration that Walker should be molested, nor that he should be prevented from raising an armed force in the United States with which to invade Nicaragua; and that he knew the private wishes of the Cabinet were with him.

FLAG SHIP "WARREN," OR ASPHARD, December 15, 1857.

SIR: My letter of the 12th instant informed the department that I had broken up the camp of General Walker at Punta Arenas, dispersed his lawless followers, and sent them to Norfolk in the "Sarotoga." The General came here with me, and will take passage in one of the steamers for New York, where he will present himself to the marshal of the district.

The department being in possession of all the facts in relation to Walker's escape with his followers from the United States, as well as the letters of Captain Chatard and Walker to me after he landed at Punta Arenas, the merits of the whole question will, I presume, be fully comprehended.

I could not regard Walker and his followers in any other light than as outlaws who had escaped from the vigilance of the officers of the government, and left our shores for the purpose of rapine and murder, and I saw no other way to vindicate the law and redeem the honor of our country than by harassing and sending them home.

In doing so I am sensible of the responsibility that I have incurred, and confidently look to the government for my justification.

Regarding in its true light, the case appears to me a clear one; the points few and strong.

Walker came to Punta Arenas from the United States, having, in violation of law, set on foot a military organization to make war upon a people with whom we are at peace. He landed there with armed men and munitions of war, in defiance of the arms of a ship-of-war placed there to prevent his landing.

With nothing to show that he acted by authority, he formed a camp, hijacked the steamer "Sarotoga," and signed himself the commander-in-chief.

With this pretension, he claimed the right of a lawful government over all persons and things within sight of his flag. Without right or authority he landed fifty men at the mouth of the river Colorado, seized the fort of Castillo, on the San Juan, captured steamers and the goods of merchants in transit to the interior, killed men, and made prisoners of the peaceful inhabitants, sending to the harbor of San Juan del Norte some thirty or forty men, women, and children, in the steamer "Morgan."

ple, these lawless followers of General Walker, misguided and deceived into a career of crime, would doubtless have perished in a tropical America, or their mutilated and festering bodies have been brought back to their friends at the expense of their country.

For these reasons, which appear to my mind quite sufficient, I have returned and sent to the United States General Walker and his outlawed and piratical followers for trial, or for whatever action the Government in its wisdom may think proper to pursue.

Captain O'Donnell, of H. B. M. ship "Brunswick," offered to co-operate with me in removing the party from Punta Arenas; but, as they were my countrymen, I deemed it proper to decline the participation of a foreign flag.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer, Commanding Home Squadron.
The Hon. Isaac Toucey,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

MARINE DISASTER.—Charleston, December 28.—The steamship Columbia, which arrived here to-day, from Baltimore, reports having spoken, off Cape Hatteras, the clipper ship Grey Eagle, from City Point, Virginia, bound to Rio, with a cargo of flour, damaged. The latter refused assistance, but seven of her passengers were taken off by the Columbia.

WALKER EXCITED IN NEW ORLEANS.—The news of Walker's capture was received here with general indignation, and great excitement against Paulding. A meeting is called for to-morrow noon. There is an intense feeling here in favor of reinforcing Anderson.

LATER FROM KANSAS.—Accounts from Leavenworth are to the 26th inst. The vote was 238 for the constitution with slavery, and nine against. Many Missourians were present, and some voted, swearing that they were then inhabitants of the Territory. Some were arrested. Judge Leconte issued a habeas corpus for their release. Calhoun was burned in effigy. There were rumors that Denver had ordered the arrest of Lane.

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION.—We regret to learn that the citizens of Marion were, on Tuesday night, visited by another destructive fire.

The fire broke out about half past nine o'clock, in a building on the south side of the public square, and consumed the whole block, including the Perry House and Commonwealth office. The loss of property is estimated at not less than seventy-five thousand dollars, and may be considerable more.—*Selma (Ala.) Daily Reporter*.

FROM HAVANA.—New York, December 28th.—The steamer Empire City, from Havana, with dates to the 23d, has arrived. The steamer Granada arrived at Havana on the 23d with the mails for New Orleans. Sugars were improving.

The steamer Fashion and United States sloop-of-war Saratoga were at Havana. The steamer Philadelphia, hence, was passed on the 24th, off Cape Florida. Freighters at Havana were dull.

SPEECH OF JUDGE DOUGLAS.—We have read the official report of the speech made by Judge Douglas in the Senate of the United States on Wednesday. It is a very able effort, and its argument cannot be answered. The speech will be more looked for by the people than any that has been made for several years.—*Columbus, (O.) Journal*.

It struck us that Mr. Douglas is right, and that Mr. Buchanan and those who support him are radically wrong, and acting in direct contravention of the principles established by the organic act of 1854, and embodied in the Cincinnati platform, upon which the battle of 1856 was contested and won. Buchanan has shown inconsistency, while the action of Douglas has been uniformly the same from the beginning to the present time.—*Cumberland (Md.) Telegraph*.

PROSECUTION TO THE BARRS.—The Supervisors of Albany county have passed very stringent laws to restrain sportsmen from destroying birds at certain seasons of the year. The practice of shooting game for the fun of it, ought to be restrained by suitable penalties.

CASE-STREEL GARNON.—Steel cannons are manufactured at Essen, in Prussia. The patentee has refused to sell his secret to English agents, who were anxious to offer them in large sums. Recently the French Government have ordered three hundred field pieces, and the engineer Todleben is at present at Essen with an order for a still larger number for account of the Russian Government.

The Buffalo Courier, a prominent Democratic journal, takes strong ground against the attitude of the administration, and sides with Walker, on the new Kansas complication. If the Democratic press will speak out with one voice on the question, Congress will at an early day reject the action of the Leavenworth Convention and authorize a new Convention to frame another constitution.

PROGRESS.—The Alexandria Gazette disposes of the prolix episode of Gov. Wise in a very summary manner. After giving it an insertion as a part of the political history of the times, it says—"It bristles with italics and is ferocious with small capitals, but the damage done is not at all in proportion to the size of the charge, or the loudness of the report."—*Lynchburg Virginian*.

The Hon. Thomas F. Marshall publishes a card in the Louisville Journal, of Thursday, in which he proposes to deliver in the city of Louisville a complete series of lectures on modern history, civil and ecclesiastical, beginning with the history of the papacy where he left off in the last lecture delivered there a few weeks ago. He announces fifteen lectures in all.

Another Swindle.
When shall we have an end to the swindling operations of members and officers of the late Black "Republican" and Know Nothing Congress—of those gentlemen who show themselves up as of superior intelligence and honesty? The affairs of Matteson, Gilbert, Greely, & Co. have hardly faded from the public mind, when we find William Cullom, the late K. N. Clerk of the House, arraigned by the Congressional Globe as making a \$100,000 strike. During the last moments of the term of the Thirty-third Congress a deficiency bill was passed, one provision of which was an appropriation of \$138,000 "to indemnify the Clerk (Cullom) for such sums as he may have expended for books furnished or to be furnished to members of the House"—but which books he never furnished, but made arrangements with members by which they were to receive a certain amount of money and give receipts for books, Cullom pocketing the remainder of the money. Soon after the adjournment of Congress it is charged that he applied to the Treasury Department for \$50,000 to indemnify him for books already supplied. His claim was refused by Mr. Whittley, then Comptroller, on the ground that no vouchers were presented.

He, on the accession of Governor Medill to the same office, renewed his application to him, asking this time but for \$20,000.

It was refused on the same ground that Whittley declined; Cullom presenting no vouchers proving the expenditure of a single dollar for the purpose indicated.

The House of Representatives owes it to itself to thoroughly investigate this whole subject.

[N. Y. News]

OVER-CHARGING.—A man named Lowell hired a hackman named Wm. Moore, of hack No. 44, on Saturday, to take him from the Southern depot to the Central. The hackman took him first to the Galena and then to the Central depot, and charged him \$8.50. He was fined \$25 by Justice King.

Another hackman, John Bingham, was hired by a boy to take him from the Milwaukee to the Southern depot, and charged him \$5. He was fined \$25 by Justice King, and made to refund the boy the \$5.—*Albany Statesman*.